APPENDIX – CLEAN LISTING OF CLAIMS

1.   A method for modifying a configuration of a host adapter for a computer, the host adapter allowing communication between the computer and a peripheral device connected to the host adapter, the method comprising:

generating a graphical user interface, the graphical user interface being configured to allow a user to access configuration settings of the host adapter;

receiving instructions via the graphical user interface, the instructions comprising changes to the configuration settings of the host adapter;

saving the changes to a file in a storage location, the changes being saved without being activated;

rebooting the computer, the rebooting using code having program instructions for: locating the file having the changes, reading the changes saved to the file in the storage location, and writing the changes to a nonvolatile memory of the host adapter of the computer, wherein the reading and the writing are performed during the rebooting of the computer; and

activating the changes for the host adapter during the rebooting of the computer so that the computer uses the changes when communicating with the host adapter, wherein the graphical user interface provides the user with a look and feel of system components visible and accessible through the operating system of the computer.

2.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

informing the user that the changes will not be available until the computer is rebooted; and

prompting the user to execute a reboot command.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the configuration settings includes what peripheral devices are connected to the host adapter.

4.   The method of claim 1, wherein a host adapter icon represents the host adapter in the graphical user interface.

5.   The method of claim 4, further comprising:

receiving a selection of the host adapter icon in the graphical user interface, the graphical user interface providing, in response to the selection, access to the host adapter and the peripheral device connected to the host adapter.

6.   The method of claim 5, wherein the graphical user interface provides access to the configuration settings of the host adapter in response to the selection of the host adapter icon.

7.   The method of claim 5, wherein the graphical user interface provides access to diagnostic tools for managing the configuration of the host adapter in response to the selection of the host adapter icon.

8.   The method of claim 1, wherein the host adapter is a SCSI host adapter.

9.   The method of claim 1, wherein a system BIOS of the computer reads the changes saved to the file in the storage location.

10.   The method of claim 1, wherein the storage location is defined in storage associated with one of a hard drive of the computer and a memory chip.

11.   The method of claim 10, wherein a system BIOS writes the changes to an EEPROM of the host adapter.

12.   A method for accessing and modifying a configuration of a host adapter for a computer, the host adapter providing communication between the computer and a peripheral device connected to the computer, the method comprising:

generating a graphical user interface that provides access to the configuration of the host adapter;

receiving instructions to modify the configuration via the graphical user interface, the instructions comprising changes to the configuration;

saving the changes to a registry key, the changes being saved without being activated;

receiving a command to reboot the computer;

performing a reboot operation when the command to reboot the computer is received;

reading the changes saved to the registry key during the reboot operation; and

writing the changes to a nonvolatile memory of the host adapter of the computer during the reboot operation, wherein the graphical user interface provides the user with a look and feel of system components visible and accessible through the operating system.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the reboot operation includes shutting down all applications and all system devices.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the reading of the changes is carried out by a device driver at Ring 0 after the shutting down of all the applications.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the writing of the changes to the nonvolatile memory of the host adapter of the computer is by the device driver at Ring 0 after the reading of the changes.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the reboot operation includes shutting down of an operating system after the writing of the changes to the nonvolatile memory of the host adapter and then an executing a boot sequence of a system BIOS.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising:

reading the configuration of the host adapter with the configuration changes by the system BIOS during the boot sequence; and

initializing the computer and the host adapter in accordance with the configuration of the host adapter with the changes.

18.   The method of claim 12, wherein the host adapter is a SCSI host adapter.

19.   The method of claim 12, further comprising:

generating a host adapter icon in the graphical user interface, the host adapter icon being configured to provide graphical user interface driven access to the host adapter and any device connected to the host adapter;

informing the user that the changes will not be available until the reboot operation is complete; and

prompting the user to select the command to reboot the computer.

20.   A method for enabling graphical user interface driven modifications of settings in an EEPROM associated with a SCSI host adapter connected to a computer, the method comprising:

displaying a graphical user interface, the graphical user interface providing a list of selectable configuration options;

receiving user selections of the configuration options provided by the list;

writing the user selections to a storage location, the writing being performed without activating the user selections;

rebooting the computer using code having program instructions for reading the user selections, writing the user selections to the EEPROM, and completing the rebooting, the SCSI host adapter being configured to operate in accordance with the user selections,

wherein the graphical user interface provides a user with a look and feel of system components visible and accessible through the operating system of the computer.

21.   The method of claim 20, wherein the graphical user interface includes selections to initiate diagnostic testing of the SCSI host adapter.

22.   The method of claim 20, wherein the storage location is defined in storage associated with one of a hard drive of the computer and a memory chip.

23.   The method of claim 20, wherein the graphical user interface is displayed following a selection of a SCSI host adapter icon.

35.   The method of claim 5, wherein access to the peripheral devices connected to the host adapter includes providing for configuration and management of the peripheral devices connected to the host adapter.

36.   The method of claim 19, wherein access to any device connected to the host adapter includes providing for configuration and management of any device connected to the host adapter.